



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Specialized Foster Family Agency (FFA) and
Short Term Residential Therapeutic Program (STRTP) Programs

Last Update: March 9, 2022

1. What is a Request For Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) Re-Opening?

- A RFSQ Re-Opening is a re-opening of a prior County contract solicitation, and intended to allow additional non-contracted organizations an opportunity to submit Statements of Qualifications (SOQ) to secure a Foster Care Placement Services (FCPS) contract with Los Angeles County.
- All posted contracted related information can be accessed at:

[DCFS Contracts Open Bids & Solicitations](#)

2. What are the dates of the RFSQ Re-Opening?

- The FCPS RFSQ Re-Opening for licensed and non-licensed STRTP and FFA non-contracted providers is tentatively scheduled to be released and posted by 4/11/2022. The SOQ open period is tentatively scheduled for 5/17/2022 to 6/14/2022. Through this solicitation, DCFS is targeting specialized programs; however, we will accept submissions of traditional programs as well. The specialized programs focus on providing enhanced services and specialized programming for children, youth and NMDs whose complex care needs cannot be appropriately met in the traditional FFA and STRTP models.

3. What is the difference between the RFSQ Re-Opening released and posted on 8/9/2021 from the previous RFSQ Re-Opening released and posted on 8/10/2020?

- The only difference was that the RFSQ Re-Opening released on 8/9/2021 sought responses from licensed FFAs.
- The new executed contracts will include the changes resulting from the implementation of the Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA).

4. What are the next steps for contracted FCPS providers?



Existing contracted providers who want to expand or change their programming should work with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Out-of-Home Care (OHC) Development Unit to update their Plan of Operation and Program Statement and then the DCFS OHC Development Unit will submit any correlated Contract Change Notice requests to the DCFS Contract Administration Division (CAD) Development Section.

- The OHC Development Unit is targeting to release guidelines on how to update the Plan of Operation and Program Statement by 4/11/2022, which will include the specialized service needs. However, agencies are welcome to start working on their updates according to the final posted concept papers. All changes should be highlighted and the updates should include the FFPSA Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) changes.

5. What are the next steps for non-contracted FCPS providers?

- The County of Los Angeles DCFS solicits STRTP and FFA agencies through a RFSQ for FCPS. Information regarding DCFS solicitations and contracting opportunities is available at [DCFS Contracts Open Bids & Solicitations](#) and <http://camisvr.co.la.ca.us/lacobids/BidLookUp/BidOpenStart.asp>. It is recommended to review these websites periodically for updates.
- Automatic notifications of open solicitations are sent to the County of Los Angeles registered vendors through the Webven. The prospective STRTP and FFA should register at <http://camisvr.co.la.ca.us/webven/> to become a County of Los Angeles registered vendor. To receive notifications regarding the FCPS (ST RTP, FFA, FFA-ESC, ISFC) solicitation, the prospective STRTP/FFA should register under the following commodity codes:
 - 95243
 - 95247
 - 95295
- The prospective STRTP or FFA must obtain the RFSQ package from the [Webven](#) or the [DCFS Contracts Open Bids & Solicitations page](#) during an open solicitation and follow the instructions to complete and submit their SOQ, including the STRTP and FFA Plan of Operation & Program Statement (PO & PS). Completion of the review and approval process of the STRTP and FFA PO & PS may take a minimum of two to four months.

6. How many providers are needed?



- DCFS OHC Development Unit is envisioning to bring up one to two specialized FFA and STRTP programs for each population or more as needed to meet DCFS needs. The populations identified as needing specialized programming are: 1) STRTP for commercially sexually exploited youth, 2) STRTP for high risk youth, 3) STRTP for youth with substance use disorders, 4) STRTP for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities, 5) STRTP for youth with special health care needs, 6) STRTP for younger children (ages 6-9), 7) STRTP for sexually reactive youth, 8) STRTP for expectant and parenting youth, 9) Individualized STRTP, 10) FFA for youth with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and 11) FFA Emergency Shelter Care for commercially exploited youth.

7. Can a new specialized FFA Resource Family Home accept placement of children who do not require specialized care along with children who do require specialized care?

- Yes. However, there is a limitation as to the number of children, youth, and NMDs who are receiving a specialized rate that can be placed together.

8. Can a new specialized STRTP facility serve children who do not require specialized care along with children who do require specialized care within the same facility?

- No. The specialized programs are enhanced STRTPs designed to meet the complex care needs of children, youth, and NMDs who are in need of a placement setting that includes specialized focused programming and can benefit from being placed in a segregated environment. For campus style or large facilities, if there is sufficient separation of the programs, this can be considered and approved.

9. Could the provider have the specialized STRTP program on the same campus as another STRTP or other program(s)?

- Segregated environments are encouraged for the safety, benefit, and well-being of the children, youth and NMDs with complex care needs and are intended to model a home-based environment. This type of request will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and may only be approved if the proposed programming and use of facilities are carefully planned to maintain the specialized program separate from the other programs.

10. Will there be enhanced rates for the specialized programs?

- Currently there is no existing fixed enhanced rate for specialized FFA and STRTP programs. However, DCFS is collaborating with CDSS to explore the possibility of fixed enhanced rates for various programs through the available complex care funding. Should fixed enhanced rates be obtained, DCFS FFA and STRTP contracts with specialized programs will be updated to reflect the enhanced rate. However, there is an existing enhanced rate request application and process, called the Innovative Model of Care (IMC)



rate. Upon expressing interest in developing a specialized program, the OHC Development Unit will begin to work with you on IMC rate request submission.

- Providers are encouraged to continue their efforts to develop specialized program(s) with the standard rates, since currently there is an increasing need for placements for children, youth and NMDs with complex care needs.
- It is also important to note, many services provided to children, youth and NMDs with complex care needs are Medi-Cal billable services.

11. What is the difference between outpatient, inpatient, and residential treatment services in a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) services program?

- SUD services can vary based on the levels of care provided and can include professionally directed medical monitoring and structured SUD treatment/recovery services. For additional information, please visit:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/NetworkProviders.htm>.
- To become a SUD contracted provider, please follow the instructions at:
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/interest.htm>.

12. Is the specific training in addition to the already existing training requirements?

- The specialized training required to service children, youth and NMDs with complex care needs could be used towards fulfilling the existing training requirements. However, all mandated training must be completed and in some cases, completion of specialized training may exceed the mandated training hours.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact DCFS Out-of-Home Care Development:

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